

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 5, 2005

SENATE BILL

No. 1081

Introduced by Senator Ducheny

February 22, 2005

An act ~~relating to fish and game~~ to add Section 79569 to the Water Code, relating to habitat restoration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1081, as amended, Ducheny. Salton Sea restoration.

Existing law requires the Secretary of the Resources Agency, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Water Resources, the Salton Sea Authority, appropriate air quality districts, and the Salton Sea Advisory Committee, to undertake a restoration study to determine a preferred alternative for the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the protection of wildlife dependent on that ecosystem. ~~The~~

The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, an initiative measure approved by the voters at the November 5, 2002, statewide general election, authorizes, for the purposes of financing a safe drinking water, water quality, and water reliability program, the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$3,440,000,000, of which \$50,000,000 is available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Wildlife Conservation Board for the acquisition, protection, and restoration of land and water resources necessary to meet state obligations for regulatory requirements related to California's allocation of water supplies from the Colorado River.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature that any of those bond moneys appropriated to the board for that purpose that are unencumbered on or after January 1, 2006, be used exclusively for the purpose of restoration of the Salton Sea and related activities. The bill

would require the board to prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2006, a report identifying funds to replace those moneys expended by that board for the acquisition of specified land for the purpose of habitat conservation. The bill would require the Department of Water Resources and the authority to seek to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the United States Geological Survey and the United States Bureau of Reclamation to establish a state and federal coordinated plan for the restoration of the Salton Sea. The bill would make findings and declarations relating to tributaries of the Salton Sea and local control of the restoration.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The Alamo River and the New River are important
4 resources and inland tributaries to the Salton Sea.

5 (b) Improving water quality and the quantity of water that
6 feeds into the Salton Sea are extremely important goals.

7 (c) The restoration of the Salton Sea is important to the
8 economic development of Imperial County and Riverside
9 County.

10 (d) Local input on restoration efforts should be taken into
11 consideration at every phase of the restoration plan.

12 (e) The state should address the involvement of local entities
13 such as the Salton Sea Authority and review the potential to shift
14 implementation of the restoration plan to a local entity.

15 SEC. 2. Section 79569 is added to the Water Code, to read:

16 79569. *It is the intent of the Legislature that any moneys*
17 *appropriated to the Wildlife Conservation Board pursuant to*
18 *Section 79568 that are unencumbered on or after January 1,*
19 *2006, be used exclusively for the purpose of the restoration of the*
20 *Salton Sea and related activities. As used in this section,*
21 *“restoration of the Salton Sea and related activities” does not*
22 *include land acquisition on the Lower Colorado River that is not*
23 *related to the restoration of the Salton Sea.*

24 SEC. 3. *The Wildlife Conservation Board shall prepare and*
25 *submit to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2006, a report*

1 *identifying funds to replace those moneys expended by that board*
2 *pursuant to Section 79568 of the Water Code for the acquisition*
3 *of approximately 1,340 acres along the Colorado River north of*
4 *Blythe for the purpose of habitat conservation.*

5 *SEC. 4. The Department of Water Resources and the Salton*
6 *Sea Authority shall seek to enter into a memorandum of*
7 *understanding with the United States Geological Survey and the*
8 *United States Bureau of Reclamation to establish a state and*
9 *federal coordinated plan for the restoration of the Salton Sea.*

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